



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**

**MASSACHUSETTS JOHN R. JUSTICE  
STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM  
Federal Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014**

**BACKGROUND, ELIGIBILITY, REQUIREMENTS**

Congress enacted the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") codified at 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21 and named for the late John Reid Justice of South Carolina, to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders and to continue in that service. The John R. Justice (JRJ) Grant Program provides loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to continued employment as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years or for prior beneficiaries<sup>1</sup>, an additional one year (four years combined). The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) is Governor Baker's designated agency responsible for administration of the JRJ Grant Program for Federal Fiscal Year's 2013 and 2014.

FFYs 2013 and 2014 funds will be awarded concurrently to streamline the application process while still complying with the federal requirements that no individual beneficiary receive in excess of \$10,000 in any calendar year. EOPSS intends to award a total of \$88,577.60 (FFY2010 funds: \$57,693.60; FFY2014 funds: \$38,884). The total award will be allocated equally for the benefit of prosecutors and defenders. In total, ten beneficiaries will be selected: five defenders and five prosecutors. The total for each beneficiary will be \$8,857.76. In accordance with federal requirements, EOPSS will award the funds to the employers of the beneficiaries for further disbursement to the holders of the beneficiaries' loans. Individuals, including prior beneficiaries, who meet the eligibility requirements below may apply for the FFY 2013 and 2014 funds.

Questions regarding the Massachusetts JRJ application process and documents only may be submitted via e-mail to [eopssjrj@state.ma.us](mailto:eopssjrj@state.ma.us). All written questions and responses will be posted at the following website: [www.mass.gov/eopss](http://www.mass.gov/eopss) by Friday, February 20, 2015 at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/funding-and-training/justice-and-prev/grants>

**Key Dates**

Application Posted: **Tuesday, January 20, 2015**

Applications Due: **Friday, February 27, 2015 at 4:00 pm**

Anticipated Award Announcements: **Friday, March 20, 2015**

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as beneficiaries of FFY2010, 2011, and 2012 Massachusetts JRJ Grant Program funds who successfully fulfilled the three-year service agreement.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicant is a full-time (at least 30 hours) staff attorney of one the Commonwealth's District Attorneys' Offices, the Attorney General's Office, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, or the Federal Public Defender Office. (Note: Appellate defenders and ADAs and criminal appellate AAGs are eligible.)
2. Applicant must have been employed full-time (at least 30 hours per week) by one of the aforementioned employers for at least 36 months preceding submission of the application. Applicants employed full-time (at least 30 hours per week) by more than one of the employers cumulatively for at least 36 months preceding submission of the application are also eligible.
3. Applicant's salary at the time of submitting the application may not exceed \$70,000 annually.
4. Applicant agrees to remain employed full time (at least 30 hours per week) as an eligible prosecutor or public defender for a period of service of not less than three years (i.e., 36 consecutive months unless extended by FMLA or other legally protected reason) from the JRJ Service Agreement and Certification submitted with this application unless involuntarily separated from employment or unless a prior beneficiary of JRJ grant funds.

An applicant who is a prior beneficiary, if selected, agrees to remain employed full time (at least 30 hours per week) as an eligible prosecutor or public defender for a period of service of not less than one year (i.e., 12 consecutive months unless extended by FMLA or other legally protected reason) from the JRJ Service Agreement and Certification submitted with this application unless involuntarily separated from employment.

5. Applicant must have eligible student loans  
**Loans eligible for repayment are defined as, and limited to the following:** (1) A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (Federal Family Education Loan Program); (2) A loan made under part C or D of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loans); (3) A loan made under section 1078-3 or 1087e (g) of Title 20 (Federal consolidation loans and Federal Direct Consolidation loans, respectively).  
**Ineligible Loans include:** (1) A loan made to the parents of a dependent student under section 428B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-2). (2) A Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to the parents of a dependent student. (3) A loan made under section 428C or 455 (g) of the higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-3 (Federal consolidation loans) and 1087e(g) (Federal Direct Consolidation loans) to the extent that such loan was used to repay a loan described in clause (1) or (2).
6. Applicant must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loan or no-interest Massachusetts state loan.
7. Applicant must be an eligible prosecutor or defender as defined below.

**Prosecutor:** Full-time employee of a state or unit of local government (including tribal government) who is continually licensed to practice law and prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level (including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases). 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21(b)(1). Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.

**Public Defender:** An attorney who is continually licensed to practice law and is a full-time employee of a state or unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; is a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with a state or unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; or employed as a full-time federal defender attorney in a defender organization pursuant to Subsection )(g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases. 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21(b)(2).

**NOTE:** Attorneys in private practice and not full-time employees of a non-profit organization, even if individually or part of a firm that is under contract with a state or court-appointed to provide public defense services, do not qualify as "public defenders" and therefore are not considered to be eligible as beneficiaries under this solicitation.

It is the responsibility of applicants to consult with the holder of his/her loan(s) or other relevant financial institutions, tax or other financial advisor, or employer to understand the implications of being the beneficiary of JRJ Grant Program funds. For additional information from the U.S. Department of Justice on the JRJ Grant Program see: [https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program\\_ID=65](https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=65)